

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

WISHA Services

Department of Labor and Industries

11.35

TUBERCULOSIS

Date: September 2, 2002

I. Background

On February 9, 1996, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued Instruction CPL 2.106, Enforcement Procedures for Occupational Exposure to tuberculosis (TB), based on the 1994 "Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of TB in Health-Care Facilities" of the Centers for Disease Control.

This CPL notes that 25,313 new cases of TB were reported in the United States in 1993. In addition, drug resistant strains have recently become a serious concern and cases of multi-drug-resistant TB have occurred in 40 states. The 1994 CDC Guidelines emphasize the control of TB through early identification, isolation, and treatment of persons with TB, through use of engineering and administrative controls to reduce the risk of exposure, and through use of respiratory protection.

WISHA recognizes the 1994 CDC Guidelines as widely accepted by industry in recognition of hazards and standards of practice.

II. Scope

This policy provides guidance to WISHA staff regarding application of CDC guidelines in cases involving potential TB exposure. It replaces WISHA Interim Interpretive Memorandum #96-2-J, issued February 26, 1996, and will remain in effect indefinitely.

III. Application Guidance

A. How should WISHA staff use the guidance from the CDC when applying WISHA standards to potential TB exposure?

With the addition of "B" below, WISHA staff are expected to follow OSHA Instruction CPL 2.106, Enforcement Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis.

Any violations identified in such situations should be cited using the appropriate requirements of WAC 296-800-110 (employer responsibilities: safe workplace), WAC 296-800-160 (personal protective equipment) and the respirator standard.

B. When should WISHA staff expect to see TB addressed in the Accident Prevention Program?

Unless the work is clearly atypical or performed by a very limited number of employees, employers within the scope of the OSHA CPL who have not tailored their written accident prevention program to address TB hazards should be cited under WAC 296-800-14005.

Approved: _____

Michael Wood

Senior Program Manager, WISHA Policy & Technical Services

For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648, Olympia, WA 98504-4648 or by telephone at (360)902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha>).